FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 JANUARY 1985

Lebanon

Al-Naqurah Talks — The 24 January Lebanese-Israeli military talks in Al-Naqurah ended without agreement on a date for the next session, Voice of Lebanon radio announced. Reporting on the talks, the radio said Israel rejected Lebanon's demand for a timetable. A Lebanese delegation spokesman, in an official statement cited by the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio, said that Lebanon remains prepared to discuss a withdrawal rather than a "redeployment." Meanwhile, the head of the Israeli delegation opined that the Syrians are behind Lebanon's disregard for Israel's sincere intention to withdraw, according to IDF radio.

In a related report UN envoy Brian Urquhart, after a 25 January meeting with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, said he will continue to work for an "orderly transfer" of IDF-evacuated areas to the Lebanese Army or UN force, Jerusalem radio confirmed. Later, Beirut radio reported Urquhart's comment, following a meeting in Beirut with Lebanon's Foreign Ministry Secretary General Fu'ad al-Turk, that he does not believe the "work at Al-Naqurah has reached an end."

Security — News agencies reported that Israel's Al-Nabatiyah military governor and two senior officers were killed in a Lebanese resistance fighters' ambush on 24 January near Al-Nabatiyah, Beirut radio related. In a separate incident, an IDF force killed six "terrorists" near Jazzin, ITIM reported citing an IDF spokesman.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak, in a speech broadcast by Cairo radio, asserted that the Palestinian cause and the Middle East peace issue will top the agenda of his talks with President Ronald Reagan in Washington during the first week in March. Stressing that the achievement of a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement would provide a "positive" factor for the talks with Reagan, Mubarak noted that Egypt is continuing consultations with Jordan and the PLO to secure such an agreement, which could pave the way for peace talks aimed at attaining Palestinian rights. Mubarak also expressed regret that Arab states have kept silent about the recent official statement by a "fraternal Arab state" to the effect that the PLO no longer represents the Palestinian people. Mubarak reminded the Arabs that Egypt has never repudiated the Rabat summit resolutions, which upheld the PLO's right to represent the Palestinians, and he emphasized his support for the PLO leadership's refusal to be an instrument for implementation of the policy of a "certain Arab state."

Libya

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in a message to leaders of Arab countries carried by JANA, called for the severance of relations with Sudan as the first step in isolating the Sudanese regime.

Western Sahara

The Saharan Information Ministry, in a report cited by Algiers radio, maintained that the new security wall was breached and 1,000 Moroccan troops put "out of action" during the first 2 weeks of January.

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Mujahidin Envoy Appeals for Health, Education Aid

LD250021 Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Rabat; 24 Jan (MAP) — Shaykh Mohamed al-Azrak, envoy of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin has appealed to the international community and in particular to the Muslim countries for adequate assistance to the children of Afghan immigrants particularly in education and health care.

Interviewed by MAP, Shaykh al-Azrak who is currently visiting Morocco said that this assistance is a duty for every Muslim, especially as this assistance creates no problems of any kind because it concerns the education of Afghan children by offering them scholarships for their studies.

The Afghan mujahidin receive no external training and have training centers at the front. They fight and train at the same time because they are proud of their religion and of the just character of their cause.

Speaking on the Afghan conflict, he said that the means which the fighters deem right consist of "resisting the foreign invasion by force and faith till victory," and said that the fighters are capable of waging resistance despite the presence in Afghanistan of nearly 230,000 Soviet troops, not to mention the Kabul regular army, several elements of which have started to joint the mujahidin ranks.

After repeating the mujahidin's rejection of any peace negotiations, "given the fact that there is nothing to negotiate with the Soviets," he states that "the sole solution" consists in the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghan territory, thus enabling the Afghan people to "live in peace and freedom under the flag of Islam."

Shaykh al-Azrak expressed satisfaction with his visit to Morocco, "a peace- and justice-loving country throughout its history" and praised the stand of both officials and leaders of the parties.

BAKHTAR Cites Commentary on Pakistani Elections

LD231024 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 23 Jan 85

["Election Comedy" — BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, January 22, BAKHTAR — Few weeks have not yet elapsed from the mock referendum of Ziaul Haq that he played another gimmick of announcing elections to national and provincial assemblies, writes daily *HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR* commenting on the elections comedy in Pakistan.

The daily adds that undoubtedly the outcome of these elections can be nothing else, but ignominy like the so-called referendum held on December 19 on the issue of Islamisation.

The fascist regime of Pakistan is taking anti-people measures. General Zia by using various empty pretexts has several times put off the holding of free and fair general elections.

Notwithstanding the threats and pressures imposed on Pakistanis by the military regime, non-participation of an overwhelming majority of the people in the referendum was a great defeat to the regime.

Despite abusing the religion of Islam to achieve their sinister designs of perpetuating its military dictatorship and the imposition of military pressures, in most of the voting areas even 5 percent of the people did not vote. On the last hours of the day of referendum, Zia's cliques gave order to their men to rush to the polls and to cast votes in favour of Zia without taking the accepted norms into consideration.

In short, Zia's referendum ended in disgrace. However, in the final analysis he declared himself to be "chosen" to remain in power for another five years.

This time the dictator general has announced that the political parties are not eligible to participate in the elections. He has decided so because he realizes the fact that the overwhelming majority of Pakistani people will be voting for the candidates of the opposition coalition, the movement for the restoration of democracy.

Whatever may be the results, these elections cannot give a legal shape to the military regime. Ziaul Haq has trampled all the rights and freedoms of the Pakistani people ever since he usurped the power through a military coup d'etat.

Contrary to the will of the overwhelming majority of the people, the regime being the gendarme of imperialism, has become a tool in the undeclared war waged by imperialism against the DRA and a factor for the destabilization of the situation in the region. The militaristic policy pursued by the Pakistani rulers at the behest of the U.S. imperialism, chinese hegemonism and the reaction of the region, is in contradiction with the interests of the people of Pakistan and has aroused their wrath and indignation.

Following the mock referendum, the protest demonstrations made by Pakistani people showed once again that the people of Pakistan have realised the anti-people essence of Zia's regime and that they are not ready to put up any longer with the dictators rule.

Rajiv Gandhi Rules Out Talks With Akali Leaders

BK241111 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said today in the Rajya Sabha that the government will have no talks with Akali leaders unless they condemn terrorism and assure that they would stand by the Constitution of India.

He emphatically said in the house that the government will not discuss the Anandpur Saheb resolution with the Akali Dal. He said the Akali Dal is free to take up territorial and water issues to the Sarkaria Commission. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was intervening during a question related to the resumption of talks with the Akali leaders.

Regarding the release of the arrested Akali leaders, the prime minister said most of these persons who did not surrender on their own during the army action in June last, they were arrested from the buildings in the Golden Temple complex from where our troops were fired upon. [sentence as heard]

The arrested Akali leaders have still not condemned terrorism. Mr Gandhi refuted a charge that in the view of the government, all Akalis are extremists and antinationals. Some of them are nationalists, he added.

Delhi: Sri Lanka Releases Indian Fishermen

BK241639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Sri Lanka today released the 17 Indian fishermen held for allegedly fishing in their territorial waters last October. A Colombo court released the fishermen and their boats after the Sri Lankan attorney general dropped the charges against them.

Replying to a calling attention motion in the Rajya Sabha on the situation in Sri Lanka, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, said that the released Indian fishermen are expected to return home on Monday.

The motion was moved by Mr Jaswant Singh, Bharatiya Janata Party, and others. The minister said that the government will continue to try for a political solution of the ethnic issue in the island. He said India is in constant touch with friendly countries over the issue and has also taken it up at the UN level.

Mr Khan said that India will see that the Tamil refugees in India, numbering nearly 40,000, go back to Sri Lanka with dignity and without fear. The continuing cycle of violence and counter-violence cannot solve the issue, he said.

Moving the motion, Mr Jaswant Singh urged the government to take all necessary steps to safeguard the interests of the people of Indian origin settled in Sri Lanka. During the debate members from both sides strongly voiced their concern at the happenings in that island.

Further Reports on Visit by Argentina's Alfonsin

Statement on Visit Released

BK241613 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1506 GMT 24 Jan 85

["Text" of the official spokesman's 24 January statement to the press on the occasion of Argentine President Raul Alfonsin's state visit]

[Text] Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Dr Raul Alfonsin, President of Argentina, met for 1 and 1/4 hours and discussed situation in their respective regions. The Indian ambassador to Argentina and the Argentine ambassador were also present. President Alfonsin spoke of situation in Latin America and Central America. Prime minister spoke on relations with neighbouring countries. On Pakistan the prime minister expressed India's strong desire for friendly relations and also mentioned Pakistan's interference in internal affairs of India. President Alfonsin was also briefed on situation in Sri Lanka and prime minister explained the developments there and expressed hope for an early political solution. Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi also reiterated India's support for Malvinas. Apart from discussing situation in their respective regions the two leaders also discussed bilateral relations.

A joint ministerial meeting was also held where Mr V.P. Singh, minister of finance; Mr G. Parthasarathy, chairman policy planning Ministry of External Affairs; Mr Kurshid Alam Khan, minister of state for external affairs; Mr Shiv Raj Patil, minister of state for science and technology, along with Mr Rasgotra, Foreign secretary; Mr Romesh Bandari, secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Doctor J.S. Teja, secretary east, Ministry of External Affairs; and other officials participated. Ministerial meeting discussed various aspects of economic relations and bilateral cooperation. Immediately after the ministerial meeting agreements on wide ranging subjects were signed. The agreements covered economic cooperation, joint studies, new industrial facilities, interbank agreements, etc.

It was also agreed to set up an intergovernmental joint commission to meet at least once a year covering areas of common interest. Joint committee will also establish specialised working groups.

In the implementation of cultural agreement signed between India and Argentina in 1974, the first ever cultural exchange programme between the two governments was signed on 24 January 1985.

The cultural exchange programme will strengthen friendly relations between two countries through cooperation and exchanges in the field of education, art culture, mass media, sports and games. Emphasis will be laid on:

1. Exchange of academics, scholars, teachers, experts, in the field of art, culture and sports. India will send out a hockey coach in exchange for a football coach from Argentina.

2. Participation in each others' conferences, book fairs, film festivals.

3. Exchange of exhibition of arts and crafts, information, books, publications, micro films, TV programme, etc. The programme will also provide facilities to scholars visiting each others countries for pursuing their field of speicalisation in the fields of arts, music, dance and drama. The programme covers the 3 year perid 1985-87.

Falklands Issue Discussed

BK250401 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] India and Argentina have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen their friendly ties and work together for lessening of international tension. Speaking at a banquet hosted by the President, Giani Zail Singh, for the visiting president of Argentina, Dr Raul Alfonsin, in New Delhi last night, the two leaders underlined the similarity of views on major international issues. Giani Zail Singh expressed India's earnest desire to see that the Indian Ocean becomes a zone of peace. In an apparent reference to Malvinas — Falklands — he hoped that a peaceful solution would be found to remove remaining relics of the colonial era from the region.

Dr Alfonsin appreciated India's backing to the peaceful campaign of Argentina to regain its sovereignty in the Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich islands. He paid rich tributes to Indira Gandhi who helped in strengthening the Non-aligned Movement.

Strike in Food Corporation of India Banned

BK251255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] The government has banned strikes in the Food Corporation of India [FCI] under the Essential Services Maintenance Act. The order prohibiting strike in any service of the FCI is valid for 6 months.

Editorial Criticizes Moves by Bangladesh's Ershad

BK221206 Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jan 85 p 8

[Editorial: "Manoeuvres of a Military Dictator"]

[Text] Lt. Gen. Ershad's plea to the Opposition parties in Bangladesh to give up their "negative" politics has received a mighty rebuff. If anything the two Opposition alliances which between them represent 22 parties have indicated their determination to go ahead with their movement to get their demands fulfilled as a precondition to holding a parliamentary election.

The 15-party alliance under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina Wazed has reaffirmed its resolve to rid the country of military rule, while the seven party combine headed by Begum Khaleda Zia has made it clear that the group would participate in an election only when the atmosphere for a free and fair election was created.

The success of the three hartals [strike] in the last one month has encouraged the Opposition parties to go ahead with their programme of non-violent action for the restoration of democracy in Bangladesh.

In separate conclaves which were held a few days ago, the two Opposition combines declared that martial law must end immediately, and a neutral government should be installed in power to vest the elections to Parliament with a semblance of impartiality.

What is of some significance is that even the Jamat-e Eslami, a fundamentalist organisation, has been fully backing the other Opposition parties. Lt. Gen. Ershad has failed so far to weaken the Opposition parties, or win even a single Opposition group to his side. His reiteration that he would go ahead with the elections already announced for April — after three earlier postponements — has not made any difference to the stand of the Opposition parties.

The military ruler is obviously in a dilemma, especially in the context of the determined bid of the Opposition to wrest an announcement from him to the effect that as earnest of his neutral role in a possible election, he would resign his post as the military ruler and fight the poll as an ordinary citizen, or in the alternative go back to the barracks and not interfere in the poll.

Lt. Gen. Ershad would, of course, have none of these, and he is trying various permutations and combinations to keep himself in the saddle. Taking a cue possibly from his counterpart in Pakistan, he is now thinking in terms of a referendum to seek the mandate of the people in favour of his programmes for democratisation and decentralisation of the administration. This is only going to make things worse for the military ruler. His announcement regarding the scrapping of the posts of district martial law administrators and sub-zonal martial law administrators with immediate effect was received with cynicism and disdain by the country's mainstream Opposition. Clearly, Lt. Gen. Ershad is in a tight corner.

Delhi: Pakistan To Get Latest U.S. Missiles

BK241601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1544 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Pakistan is to get the latest American air-to-air missiles for its F-16 fighter aircraft. A news agency report from Islamabad says the supply is subject to the U.S. Congress approval. Pakistan has already received 25 F-16 aircraft and an unspecified number of the 1970 version of American air-to-air missiles. The agency also reports that Pakistan will receive this year the final installment of 15 more F-16 aircraft.

Election Commission Announces Code of Ethics

BK241333 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The Election Commission has announced the code of ethics for the candidates taking part in the general election. It has been laid down that invoking social, communal or religious, or spiritual censure will not be allowed. According to the code circulated to the polling staff, the candidates have been warned against using mosques, churches, temples and other places of worship for canvassing purposes. No one will break up meetings organized by rival candidates, nor interrupt speeches, or prevent distribution of posters of other candidates.

The Election Commission has also taken all necessary steps to ensure the secrecy of ballots, maximum convenience of voters and smooth conduct of the polls. The commission has notified measures to prevent bogus voting during the forthcoming polls. Persons involved in bogus voting will be immediately arrested and those found guilty will be awarded imprisonment up to 3 years or fine up to 5,000 rupees or both.

Rajiv Gandhi Should Help Solve Kashmir Issue

GF241252 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 21 Jan 85 p 5

[Commentary by Mir Abdul Aziz: "Rajiv at Crossroads in Kashmir"]

[Excerpt] Now that Rajiv Gandhi has achieved a brilliant success, it is time he should rise to the occasion and help in solving the issue of Kashmir. With the large majority he got in the elections, he can deliver the goods.

He will have to act with the extraordinary courage which was exercised by Gandhi and Nehru when they accepted the demand of Pakistan, which they had earlier been opposing tooth and nail.

A most honourable way can be found to the issue of Kashmir if the desire to find a way is there. Military solution is no solution and Pakistan and the Kashmiris would refuse to be humiliated. That is what the past 37 years events have proved.

A solution which can be acceptable to both the countries without loss of face can be found. India would have to exhibit magnanimity and political sagacity.

Pakistan has shown that it is prepared to go to any extent for the cause of peace in the region but this is not to be a one-sided affair. India is holding the best part of Kashmir and that is the reason why the issue of Kashmir is alive.

As long as this issue remains, India would continue to face awkward situations in the valley of Kashmir and the miseries of the Kashmiris would continue to be the skeleton in the Indian cupboard and a fly in the Indian ointment.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Comments on Need for Free Elections

BK241731 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has said his government is determined to hand over power to an elected government.

The president was addressing huge public meetings at Srimangal in Maulvi Bazar District and Bania Chang in Habiganj District today.

He said elections must be held to ensure stability in the country for unhindered all-round development. He reiterated that forthcoming general elections will be absolutely free, fair and impartial. He urged the people to extend their full support and cooperation for smooth holding of the poll. He told them to remain on guard against any obstacle to it.

18 Shanti Bahini Members Surrender, Captured

BK231009 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] In the past 15 days, six members of the so-called Shanti Bahini [Peace Force] have surrendered to law enforcement agencies in different parts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Those who surrendered are: the political secretary of sector number four of the Shanti Bahini, Captain (Ang Singh Marma), Corporal Mang Sahi Marma, Sergeant Prial Mastu Ram Marma, Corporal Nitu and soldier Balasto Marma.

They surrendered to the security forces at Rangamati, Bandarban, Mudak and Bhagaban Qila.

Acting on information from (?reliable) sources, the security forces arrested 12 members of the so-called Shanti Bahini from Dalaichari, Namuchar Bhagaban Qila and Panchari areas.

"Those arrested are: Dhanupara Chakma, Udharwari Chakma, Prabhat Kumar Chakma, Amit Kumar Chakma, Sona Chakma, soldier Dipta, soldier Kailat, soldier Danga, soldier Sadhan, soldier Smirti, soldier Kendra and soldier Samoti.

During their attacks the security forces captured 2 LMS, 2 SMG, a .303 rifle, locally made guns and 310 rounds of ammunition.

SRI LANKA

India Releases Ship; Indian Nationals Freed

BK241329 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Government has secured the release of the Sri Lanka naval craft and the crew which were seized by the Indian Navy on the 11th of this month. This was announced by the minister of foreign affairs, A.C.S. Hameed, in Parliament today. The minister was replying to a question raised by the deputy minister of women's affairs and teaching hospitals, G.B. Punchi Nilame, at adjournment time.

The minister said that he was in continuous contacts with the Indian Government both through the Sri Lankan high commissioner in New Delhi and the high commissioner for India in Sri Lanka ever since the Sri Lanka Navy craft and crew were captured by the Indian authorities.

Mr Hameed said he was happy to inform the house that this matter had been satisfactorily resolved and the navy patrolcraft and the crew will return to Sri Lanka shortly.

Mr Hameed added that the satisfactory solution to this problem was facilitated because of the good will, understanding and cooperation that existed between the two countries.

Mr Hameed stated further that the house may be aware that there were 17 Indian fishermen held in custody in Sri Lanka since October last year for poaching in Sri Lankan waters. He said that the counsel appearing for them has said that the fishermen had involuntarily strayed into our waters. Therefore, he recommended that the attorney general considers this aspect of the matter and stays prosecution against them. The attorney general has given this consideration and has now withdrawn the charges against them. He said that the fishermen were released today.

Delhi: TULF Appeals for By-Election Boycott

BK250405 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front has appealed to the Tamils of the northern and eastern province of Sri Lanka not to participate in the coming by-elections. In a resolution the TULF said hundreds of Tamils, particularly political activists in these areas are under custody or have fled the country. The Sri Lanka Government has announced by-elections in 4 of the 16 constituencies represented by the TULF in Parliament.

Velayati Protests to UN Over Iraqi Bombings

LD241851 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Following the repeated violation by the Iraqi regime of the agreement not to attack civilian regions and Iraq's savage attacks on our country's civilian regions, and following the UN special mission's representative's inspection of the bombed areas, Mr Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, has sent a letter to the UN secretary general. The text of the letter is as follows:

In His exalted name. Mr Secretary General: As you are aware, the aggressor regime of Iraq, in its imposed war on the Islamic Republic of Iran, has proved its repeated indifference and nonadherence to humanitarian and international principles and standards.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in accordance with its belief in the lofty principles of Islam and its firm respect for humanitarian principles and for international laws and standards, fully adhering to these principles and laws, draws to the attention of the international community, including the United Nations and Your Excellency in person, the constant violations, shameless impudence, and resort to inhuman methods by the Iraqi regime; and I ask that effective international steps be taken in order to stop the continuation of these Iraqi crimes.

Your Excellency is aware that the Iraqi regime has hitherto refrained from replying to your request with regard to its undertaking not to resort to the use of chemical weapons, and the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly warned the international community that this state of affairs amounts to no more than that the Iraqi regime is determined to utilize once again these inhuman weapons.

The continuous and repeated violation of the 12 June 1984 agreement concerning the nonengagement of attacks on civilian and nonmilitary areas by the Iraqi regime, of which numerous instances have been brought to Your Excellency's notice, demonstrates very clearly that this regime not only does not have the slightest respect for, and does not value in the slightest, international principles, laws, and opinions, and that it does not adhere to its commitments.

The report of the Tehran-based UN investigation team, the subject of Security Council Document No S 16897, demonstrates the blatant violation of the 12 June accord and categorically confirms the rightful stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the utter and total unreliability of this aggressor regime.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while expressing extreme anxiety and warning of the aggressive behavior of the Iraqi regime and of the deleterious and unforeseeable consequences and effects, declares: So long as Your Excellency does not declare that the 12 June agreement is impossible to uphold, the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to adhere and be committed to its previous policy course with regard to observing the said agreement.

[Signed] 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of Iran.

UN Team Investigating Iraqi POW's Departs

LD250949 Tehran IRNA in English 0859 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan 25, IRNA — The UN fact-finding delegation to investigate conditions of Iraqi POW's in Iran left Tehran Friday morning after a week-long stay in Iran. The delegation was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by director general for international affairs of the Foreign Ministry, Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, and a number of other Iranian officials.

During its stay in Iran, the UN delegation inspected various Iraqi POW camps in Iran and had lengthy talks with the POW's in the absence of any mediator. Members of the delegation also met and conferred with Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Speaking to reporters at the airport, Mahallati said that the Islamic Republic of Iran had previously informed the UN delegation that the schedule for their visit would be prepared according to their proposals.

A list of all POW camps in Iran was given to the delegation and all their visits with the POW's took place without any mediator and completely free.

He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran requested the UN delegation to extend its visit to Iran to inspect other camps, but due to time limitation the delegation did not accept.

Referring to the appreciation the UN has expressed for the facilities Iran provided to the UN delegation, Mahallati noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced that it would welcome any impartial proposal for the improvement of the condition of the POW's and was ready for cooperation in this respect.

He said that the delegation would present its report to the UN secretary general next week and hoped that reflection of such reports would help improvement of the condition of Iranian POW's in Iraq.

Mahallati said that Iran had also announced that it was ready for a constant unilateral release of Iraqi disabled POW's and in this connection would release 26 of them next week.

The Foreign Ministry official described the visit of the UN delegation to Iran as thoroughly successful and satisfactory. He added that the issue of POW's was a humanitarian subject which had been abused by the Iraqi regime as a means for political propaganda.

Unfortunately, he stressed, the Red Cross had involved itself in the issue, but the Islamic Republic, he said, was trying to appoint an impartial observer to supervise over the conditions of the POW's. Of course, he said, the Red Cross was no exception, provided that it would revise in its previous policies.

He referred to the recent Iraqi air attack against residential areas in Dasht-e Azadegan, southern Iran, and reiterated that the Iraqi regime had violated its commitments to the UN secretary general to refrain from attacking residential quarters. He said that the

report of a UN delegation supervising over the observance of the commitment in Iran, confirmed that the bombed areas were hundred percent residential quarters.

Some 50,000 Iraqi POW's who are presently being stationed in various POW camps in Iran have been captured inside Iranian territory and in spite of their violation against Iran, they have been treated according to Islamic humanitarian principles.

Minister Urges Firm ESCAP Action on Gulf Attacks

LD241444 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 24, IRNA — The Iranian minister of roads and transport, Mohammad Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan, currently here attending the conference of the ESCAP transport ministers, addressed the session on Iraqi attacks on oil tankers and commercial ships in the international waters of the Persian Gulf.

Further in his address to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, he said that these attacks have endangered international marine transportation in the region. He also referred to the air piracy of the Iraqi regime and its refusal to hand over two Iranian passenger aircraft hijacked to Iraq.

These actions, he stressed, are against international regulations and added that firm decisions by the session in providing security of international transport would show the degree of success of the organisation in attaining its goals.

In another part of his address to the session, which opened here Wednesday, Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan talked about the post-revolutionary achievements in Iran in the field of roads and transport. In this respect priority has been given to the deprived areas of the country.

On plots against the Islamic Revolution of Iran, he referred to the Iraqi imposed war and said that a significant portion of manpower and facilities has been allocated to the Iraqi imposed war and this has had a negative effect on various fields of economy and other sectors. He hoped that by outrooting aggression in the region and the final victory of the Iranian forces in the war, conditions would be provided for further development and progress.

He further told the conference that real progress in a country will only be achieved under independence. Therefore, he emphasised, ESCAP members in implementing their development projects should take advantage of technical and scientific achievements of other countries, but they should seriously refrain from allowing superpowers to formulate such programs.

The reason, he continued, is that the superpowers are the prime contributors to the problems of the developing countries and in order to promote their policies, superpowers have become members in organisations such as ESCAP.

Consequently, it is not surprising that once a country such as the U.S. realises that it could no longer influence UNESCO, it pulls out of it, he concluded.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issue Communique No 1,982

LD241631 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 24 Jan 84

["Iraqi Casualties, Losses Mounting" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces announced in its Communique No. 1982 issued today that about 35 Iraqis were killed or wounded and 16 enemy group bunkers and observation posts as well as one command jeep were demolished in the western fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam during the past 24 hours.

The engineering activities of the enemy troops were also halted in northwestern operational fronts during the said period.

In the southern fronts, the patrol activities of Iraqi forces were thwarted and Iraqi positions came under the Islamic combatants' fire.

One civilian was martyred and five others wounded when Iraqi forces barraged Abadan with long-range fire during the past 24 hours. Ten houses and 6 shops were also damaged, concluded the Joint Staff Command Communique.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Musian Region 23 Jan

LD241522 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Ilam, Ilam Pr. Jan. 24, IRNA — At least one civilian was wounded and a vehicle destroyed as Iraqi planes bombarded the Musian region, in Dehloran city, southeast here Wednesday afternoon.

In related news, at least 37 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in the Ilam and Bakhtaran battlefronts over the 24 hours preceding Thursday. Also seven enemy lookout posts and one mortar launcher were destroyed by the Islamic combatants of Iran in these fronts over the same period.

War Zone Body Allocates Renovation Funds

LD241947 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] A meeting of the headquarters for reconstruction and renovation of the war-struck zones was held today at the Interior Ministry. Following discussions about foreign currency and domestic rial allocations; reconstruction and renovation plans for 1985-86; methods for supplying machinery through utilizing the banking system; compensation for boat owners; and other matters to do with the reconstruction and renovation of the war-struck zones, the following allocations were approved:

The second and fifth phases of the allocations for the environment organisation's projects for reconstruction and renovation, totalling 25 million rials; the fourth phase of the allocation for reconstruction and renovation of small industries, totalling 125 million rials; the remainder of the allocation for reconstruction and renovation projects of Khuzistan's [word indistinct] during the current year [beginning 21 March 1984] totalling 155,667,000 rials; and the fourth phase of the allocation

for reconstruction and renovation projects by the Western Regional Electricity Organization, as requested by the Energy Ministry, totalling 150 million rials.

Iraqi 'Revolutionaries' Attack Saddamist Forces

LD241823 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The Central News Unit, reporting on some news received from Iraq's interior, announced:

The Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries, during a surprise attack, succeeded in killing four mercenaries of the Zionist regime of Iraq and seriously wounding six others at the security headquarters of the Saddamist regime's forces in the city of Al-Mawsil.

Police Chief Killed

LD250003 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries hurled several grenades into the station of the city of Al-Sawamah, south Iraq, killing the chief of the police, as well as some of the officials of the Saddam regime.

According to the news sources of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, following these operations the Saddam forces declared a state of emergency in the city, detaining some of the civilians in this city.

Tribesmen Reportedly Stage Anti-War Protest

LD242052 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, Jan. 24, IRNA — More than 2000 tribesmen of Basrah, An Nasiriyah, and Diwaniyah, in southern Iraq, have reportedly revolted in protest to the arrest and forcible dispatch of young tribesmen to the fronts.

Reports reaching IRNA here indicated that besides the compulsory dispatch of youths to the fronts, some arms were distributed among the tribesmen in these provinces to fight against Iran's Islamic forces.

The tribesmen, according to the reports, staged an indefinite sit-in strike in their villages as a result of which Iraqi security forces attacked their villages and arrested the tribes' leader, Sheikh Sachet, and some other tribesmen.

The arrests sparked clashes between the tribesmen and security forces which led to the withdrawal of government forces and release of those arrested, including Sheikh Sachet.

Following the rebellion, Saddam offered financial aids to Sheikh Sachet through his special envoys but he refused the aims and urged the regime to cease its forceful dispatching of youths to the war fronts.

Clandestine on Clashes Among Khomeyni Guards

GF241610 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] According to reports received from Tehran, there have been armed clashes between the guards supporting the imam and the guards supporting Islam. National elements said that these clashes have mostly taken place in streets and in precincts of Tehran and several clashes have ended in loss of lives.

According to this report, so far several clashes have occurred in the Air Force, which reveals strong differences between the guards. Piruzi Avenue and avenues close to the 'Qasr-e Piruzeh' witnessed some days ago sporadic clashes among guards. A group of guards following the path of the imam, who take their inspiration from the religious elements and follow a particular line of political and economic policies, clashed with a group of guards who follow the strategy of the government. The latter accuse the former of following the path of the clergy who are called "courtier clergy."

Another report from the Tehran Vali-'Asr garrison said that a number of Islamic Guards openly opposed the regime, saying that the policies of the Cabinet were against the spirit of Islam. National elements said that the number of guards in the Vali-'Asr garrison is about 5,000 men. If this rumor is correct, then we should be alert for the role to be played by these guards in the power struggle among the government clergies and the way they settle account with them.

'Dozens' of Soviets, Afghans Killed in Paktia

LD242353 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Dozens of troops of the joint Soviet and Afghan government forces, in the course of the encirclement of the Haji Pass in Paktia Province, were either killed or wounded by Afghan Muslim revolutionaries.

According to an IRNA report, [words indistinct], added: This attack resulted in the killing and wounding of a noticeable number of Afghan Government and Soviet troops and in 80 also giving themselves up to the Muslim revolutionaries.

History of 'Friendly Ties' With Nicaragua Viewed

LD242112 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA — Iran and Nicaragua have enjoyed strong friendly ties even before the opening of Iran's Embassy in Managua on Feb. 11, 1983. The coincidence of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran and the Nicaraguan revolution, which both put an end to U.S. domination on the two countries, has further strengthened mutual ties.

Similarity of conspiracies which are being hatched by the United States and its allies against Iran and Nicaragua in two different geographical regions puts the countries in a common stance vis-a-vis international issues.

On March 26, 1983, when the Nicaraguan Embassy was officially opened in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian Foreign Ministry issued an announcement in which it stressed its support for the government and people of Nicaragua and condemned the attempts of the U.S. and Honduran Governments to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government and undermine its revolution.

In a meeting between the prime ministers of the two countries on March 13, 1984 in Tehran, Dr. Ramirez Mercado said that although Iran and Nicaragua were located in two different regions, they had anti-imperialistic characteristics.

In another meeting with Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mercado noted that U.S. imperialism was attacking both Iran and Nicaragua since the two countries were threatening its interests.

On March 17, 1984, in a joint communique released at the end of the visit of the members of the Nicaraguan Reconstruction Council to Iran, the two countries condemned Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons against Iran. The communique also denounced counterrevolutionary activities launched from Honduras against Nicaragua as well as aggressive policies of the Zionist regime in the Middle East and U.S. military invasion of Grenada.

Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari on July 3, 1984 announced that the volume of trade between Iran and Nicaragua amounted to 23 million dollars.

IRNA Summarizes 24 Jan Majlis Proceedings

LD242218 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA — The Majlis Islamic Consultative Assembly approved today a bill whereby the Islamic Republic will become a member of the international convention for prohibition and punishment of apartheid crimes. Also generalities of a bill making possible the publication of some classified Foreign Ministry documents were approved in the same session.

The first speaker in today's open session was Hossein 'Ali Rahmani, a representative from Bijar, Kordestan Province, who spoke on the effects of the victory of the Islamic revolution in awakening the Muslim nations especially in providing inspiration for the Afghan and Lebanese Muslim nations to struggle against occupiers.

Referring to the conspiracies of world oppression and Saddam's aggression upon the Islamic Republic, the Bijar deputy stressed that the Islamic combatants would deal the final blows to the Iraqi aggressors at the appropriate time.

He also urged the government to formulate plans whereby the country's economy would become less reliant on oil exports. Rahmani also called for the promotion of export of goods such as carpets and agricultural products. The next speaker, Gholam Hossein Rahbar-Pour from Tuysarkan, Hamadan Province, emphasised that the war was the main issue of the country. He also expounded on Saddam's objectives in attacking the Islamic Republic.

In another part, he urged stepped up efforts to do away with a lingering administrative bureaucracy in the country.

The last speaker in today's session was Reza Karimi from Marand, East Azarbayjan Province, who discoursed on the superpowers' crimes in Islamic countries such as Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, and Afghanistan, as well as the treacheries of these countries' subservient rulers. He stressed that the Muslim people of these countries will eventually curtail the hands of foreigners from their countries through their uprisings.

In conclusion, he expressed the hope that a government of Islamic justice would be established in Iraq with the victory of Islamic combatants and following the downfall of Saddam's regime.

Today's session was chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Investigation Into Explosion Requested

LD241436 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Excerpts] There were a number of pre-agenda speeches in today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. The second pre-agenda speaker was Mr Gholam Reza Rahbarpur, deputy from Tuysarkan, who in a speech talked about the need to eliminate administrative corruption and to refrain from polarization and favoritism in government departments, as well as about the need to assist government employees with cash and goods and to pay special attention to agriculture.

He also asked the Supreme Judicial Council to investigate the file on the bomb explosion in the prime minister's office [not further specified] and to inform the public of that event, and to adopt a decisive stance against the counterrevolutionaries and warring mini-groups.

Tehran on Arab Committee Meeting in Baghdad

GF231050 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary: "The 7-Member Arab Ministers' Committee and the Imposed War"]

[Text] Last Monday afternoon the 7-member Arab ministers' committee concluded its latest session in Baghdad. Last year after the month of Esfand [20 February to 20 March 1984], during which time the Islamic fighters in the Val-Fajr 5 and 6 operations and then in the Khyber operation in the imposed war succeeded in defeating Saddam's army and liberating the Majnun Islands, the Iraqi regime [illegible] asked Arab League members to send their foreign ministers to an extraordinary session in Baghdad.

The aim of calling such a meeting was to counteract the effects of the Iranian victory achieved by the Islamic fighters through the occupation of the strategic Majnun Islands. That victory proved that all the hopes that had been pinned on the resistance power of Saddam's Army by some Arabs were useless, and that

Saddam's Army, despite foreign aid, and due to its low morale and spirit, had little strength to stand and fight. But little notice was taken of that Baghdad meeting of seven Arab foreign ministers. The progressive countries among the Arabs boycotted this meeting by abstaining from sending their foreign ministers to Baghdad.

However, despite all these snubs, a seven man committee, in addition to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, was created by Saddam in view of the increasing crisis in the Persian Gulf. The committee members were charged with the task of visiting world countries and to do their best, even at the cost of their honor, to help stop our oil exports.

For 10 months this committee has been working on the project, but so far has shown very little results as our oil exports continue to flow and our Armed Forces are even stronger today. Despite Saddam's latest fireworks, it has little to show.

The seven-member Arab committee in fact represents some of the reactionary Arab regimes. It comprises the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Tunisia, the YAR, Iraq, and Morocco. The Iraqi regime is the chief culprit among them, while Saudi Arabia and Kuwait provide sustenance for its continued existence, and Jordan, the YAR [as heard], Morocco, and Tunisia, through the dispatching of their forces, however weak and insignificant, have been trying to show that they are backing Iraq in this imposed war.

The seven-member committee aims to force Iran to sue for talks and peace. This is being done despite the fact that the conferees themselves, directly or indirectly, are involved in this imposed war.

In view of this, one should ask the Arab League: Was its conscience sleeping 4 years ago when Saddam's Army engaged in killing our people, destroying our cities and villages, and displacing our people in Khuzestan and the western part of our country? Did anyone ask Saddam why he was sending his armies into a Muslim country and why he had occupied some of its territory?

The Arab countries and members of the seven-member committee have stated that if Iran remains adamant in its policy, then all Arab countries should review their relations with Iran. Did the same countries consider reviewing relations with Iraq when Saddam started his aggression and tore up the 1975 agreement?

Leaving aside the issue of the imposed war, what has this group of Arab countries done regarding other problems facing Islam? When the Palestinians and Lebanese in Beirut were surrounded by Israel and were suffering hundreds of martyrs and wounded every day, the Arab league at Fes in Morocco only adopted a formula that only aimed at securing [word indistinct] of Israeli territory. In fact the Arab League cared little about those Palestinians killed and displaced under Israeli aggression. This very group of Arab countries, instead of making use of the opportunity by forging a united force for an attack on Israel, took a step backward and presented the Fes formula to the Palestinian people. In the case of Lebanon, even after the exodus of the Lebanese [as heard], a majority of the members of the Arab League were content with watching the situation, expecting that the Americans might step in and help. The only thing these Arabs did regarding the Zionist aggression at that time was to have King Khalid, the former king of Saudi Arabia, send a telegram to Reagan requesting him to persuade the Israelis to withdraw from Lebanon.

However, the tables were turned and action took place within Lebanon itself when the Lebanese and the Islamic forces succeeded in abrogating the 17 May agreement and inflicting punishing blows on the Zionist regime and its mercenaries until they were forced to flee. Unfortunately, the Arab League never praised their victory. Only a few months ago it was announced that Chedli Klibi would visit Lebanon. However, it was later revealed that his only work in Lebanon was to track down a sum of several million dollars that had been given as aid to the Palestinians and that had been unaccounted for.

Today, the Arab countries represent a fair sized piece of the Islamic world. But the question remains: Why can they not be unanimous over Lebanon or the Palestinian question in order to work toward an Islamic and popular objective? Some may point out existing differences between them, but again these differences have been created by the very same group of countries under discussion. Today no one doubts that it was Saddam who started the imposed war and created a crisis that threatens to escalate. The Arab League, as in the case of Lebanon and the Palestinian question, has never been able to find an Islamic and just solution. Its only aim seems to be to bail out Saddam and restore the aggressor to his former position.

While the use of chemical weapons by Saddam has been condemned throughout the world, the Arab League considers such talk injurious to Saddam's interests and has remained silent. Soon after that incident the United Nations repeatedly revealed that Saddam was bombarding and rocketing Iranian cities, villages, and civilian housing, but the Arab League once again remained silent. But when false allegations were leveled against Iran over the Iraqi POW's in Iran, the Arab League vigorously reacted in favor of Iraq. It must be noted that not all Arab countries have taken part in this scandal. In Arab society there are still several progressive and just countries which can identify the truth and support it. However, unfortunately a majority of members of the Arab League are reactionaries who are today represented on this seven-member committee. Why is this group staking their men, money, and honor by backing the Saddam regime which is certainly going to be proved an aggressor? Why are they deepening and widening the rifts within the Islamic and the Arab world? The Armed Forces of Islamic Iran have proved to the world that the initiative remains with them in this war. They can strike whenever they want to. However, they had thought that the countries in the region would have better sense and help prevent bloodshed. But, despite all this talk, the final outcome of war will be decided only by those who are engaged in fighting. The reactionaries who believe they can impose peace, just as they have imposed the war, had better wake up, otherwise they will be awakened by the future victories of the Islamic fighters.